REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 23rd March, 1901.

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I.—Foreign Politics.

The Bengalee sympathises with the residents of Cape Colony, who in addition to the sufferings inflicted by the war, Plague in Cape Colony. are now in the grip of the plague.

14th March 1901,

955. The same paper hopes that the difference that has arisen between England and Russia in China.

the English and Russians at Tientsin will be adjusted without any serious consequences.

BENGALEE. 15th March 1901.

The Indian Mirror wonders if this will turn out a mere storm in a tea-pot, or prove to be the beginning of a deadly conflict between the Allied Powers.

INDIAN MIRROR, 15th March 1901.

956. The Bengalee quotes the words of the Liberal Leader describing sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's peace proposals.

the King's speech as "a poverty-stricken programme," and in the same article goes on to speak with modified approval of Sir Henry Campbell-

Bannerman's advocacy of definite proposals of terms of peace. "These," says the Bengalee, after quoting the Liberal leader's proposals, " are Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's terms of peace. They are not ours, as our readers are aware. We are for the restoration of the Republics."

BENGALEE, 17th March 1901.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)-Police.

The Amrita Bazar Patrika's Burdwan correspondent refers to the large number of murders lately committed in that Murders in Burdwan. district, and to the fact that in the majority of cases no trace of the culprits has been found.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 15th March 1901.

The Bengalee wishes to draw the attention of the authorities to a

BENGALEE, 17th March 1901.

case in which two constables of the Narsingtola Outrage by police constables in outpost, Silchar, tried to outrage a young Marwari woman, and on being disturbed in the attempt, beat her with their batons, tore her clothes, and dragged her to the thana, where they charged her with polluting the water of a well. Though the truth of the story is not vouched for, the paper hints that proper enquiry is not being made.

> AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 18th March 1901.

The Amrita Bazar Patrika publishes a letter from a correspondent at Kodarma (Hazaribagh), describing how a Mr. Shooting tragedy at Hazaribagh. Whyte, Manager, P. and O. Mica Company, had ordered his assistants, Frizzoni and Lithorn, to drive away some natives who were playing on musical instruments. The natives turned and assaulted Frizzoni and Lithorn, whereupon Whyte fired into the crowd with a rifle. Two natives were wounded and have since died. Frizzoni, it is said, was also wounded by a bullett from Whyte's rifle.

Another correspondent complains of the way this case is being investigated.

The Giridih correspondent of the Hindoo Patriot gives a similar account of the occurrence, but says Mr. Whyte has been sent in custody to Hazaribagh for trial.

HINDOO PATRIOT. 20th March 1901.

The Bengalee publishing further details of the affair, complains that the case has been turned against the Kols, of whom several have been arrested already, and

17th March 1901.

begs for an enquiry that will satisfy the people. "It is growing into a scandal," says the paper, "that in all scuffles between Europeans and the children of the soil . . . , it is the latter who

are pursued and punished with relentless zeal." 961. The Amrita Bazar Patrika publishes some unfavourable remarks passed by the High Court on the police investiga-

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 20th March 1901.

Police enquiry in a Bogra murtion in a murder case of Bogra. der case. Justices Amir Ali and Pratt give their opinion that the fact that other persons who must have helped in the crime have escaped punishment, is due to the police.

(d)-Education.

BENGALES, 14th March 1901. The new vernacular Educational books intended for the use of pupils and teachers should be translated into literal English and submitted for the approval of the authorities. The Board of Censors should have sufficient knowledge of the vernacular to be able to form a correct estimate of the merits or demerits of such books—otherwise it becomes a farce for them to sit in judgment. It is hoped the new scheme will not end in a royal road to the bestowal of favours by those in authority.

INDIAN NATION, 18th March 1901.

963. The Indian Nation can conceive nothing more unreasonable or more unfair to authors than the rule that vernacular books submitted to be passed by the Director of

BENGALEE, 15th March 1901. public Instruction should be accompanied by an English translation.

964. Referring to Mr. Raleigh's tour of colleges and schools connected with the Calcutta University, the Bengalee makes the following observations:—

No one need be a prophet to be able to predict that Mr. Raleigh's connection with the University is destined to be signalized by the inauguration of various changes—whether for better or for worse the future alone will show.

BENGALEE, 15th March 1901. 965. The same paper prays that in view of the unhealthiness of the Closing of schools and colleges. city, the authorities may be pleased to close all educational institutions, whether Government or private.

BENGALEE, 19th March 1901,

966. The same journal mentioning the occurrence of cases of plague close to the Hindu Hostel, says that the Educational authorities ought to close the institution

without delay.

HINDOO PATRIOT, 15th March 1901. 967. The Hindoo Patriot criticizes the reply of Professor Ramsay to His Excellency the Viceroy, with regard to the carrying out of Mr. Tata's scheme of an Imperial University for the development of post-graduate education, and disagreeing with his views thereon, concludes by saying that "it is not likely that at least for many years to come, nay it is impossible, to carry out Mr. Tata's scheme."

The Bengalee on the other hand touches upon a portion of the Professor's report of which it speaks in very favourable terms.

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Indian Mirror, 17th March 1901.

INDIAN NATION,

18th March 1901.

268. The Indian Mirror speaks with approval of Professor Ramsay's report on Mr. Tata's scheme, and considers Bangalore would be an ideal place for the proposed university.

Ramsay's report on Mr. Tata's scheme, points out that there will be no incentive to Scientific education or research "so long as no attractive career is open to Scientific students. Scientific industries cannot be created at pleasure. Their growth is always dependent upon certain laws and conditions."

POWER AND GUAR-DIAN. 17th March 1901.

970. Power and Guardian draws the attention of the Director of Public Instruction to a case in which Mr. Percival is said to have "insulted" a student, and threatened him with punishment by the Police.

(e) .- Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

BENGALEE, 13th & 14th March 1901. The Calcutta Municipal Executive have spent money on sewer works which are destined to remain unproductive for several years, and how such work was undertaken in disteen wasted. It also exposes the method of doing business which obtains with the Municipal Executive, and hopes that the European Commissioners will safeguard the interests of the rate-payers.

In a third article, under heading "the Municipal Executive unveiled," the Bengalee complains of waste of public money and other faults in the Suburban Drainage Works, and says that any interference by the Commissioners with the mighty Executive, however much they may waste money, is construed into obstructiveness.

BENGALBE, 19th March 1901

Mr. W. B. Oldham.

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972. The same paper thinks that the appointment of Mr. Oldham as Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality would give unqualified satisfaction to the Indian community of Calcutta.

BENGALEE. 15th March 1901.

Oil lamps in Calcutta streets.

It draws attention to the letter of a correspondent on the subject of the use of oil lamps for lighting roads in Calcutta and the added area, and remarks that the practice is disgraceful and the sooner the perfunctory supervision exercised,

BENGALES, 15th March 1901.

which is responsible for this state of things, is remedied the better. 974. A correspondent complains from Howrah that there is very little filtered water obtainable in the morning, when it is

BENGALES, 16th March 1901.

Howrah Municipality. most needed, but that the pressure is strongest at night when it is not needed: that the roads and drains are badly swept and cleansed, with the result that the stench after sunset is intolerable.

BENGALEE, 16th March 1901.

The Bengalee brings to notice that at a special meeting of the Calcutta Municipal Commissioners yesterday, when A noteworthy incident. Babu Sita Nath Roy rose to propose the employment in view of the plague of a larger temporary establishment in the Sanitary Department, the hall was cleared of most of the civic fathers, as if the matter had no interest for them. The Babu was obliged to abandon his proposal for

want of a quorum and left in despair, after which the members, who had gathered outside the hall, re-entered, for there was a general committee to be held, for which each Commissioner was to receive a fee.

The Indian Nation, touching on the prevalence of plague, cholera

INDIAN NATION, 18th March 1901.

and small-pox in Calcutta, says the Corporation The Calcutta Corporation and has not been doing its duty in the way of improvsanitation.

ing the sanitation of the town. The energy of the Executive is used mainly for prosecutions, not for cleaning. The old elected Commissioners managed to get some work done, but now there are none to whip up the sluggish Executive. They could have averted the evils incident to census work, the reckless and oppressive enlistment of enumerators for instance, &c.

(f) Questions affecting the land.

The Bengalee gives a brief-history of co-operative banking in Europe, and understands that the Government of India has Co-operative banking. taken up the question of agricultural banks in right earnest—but is of opinion that the problem is one for the community, not the State, to solve. It asks when India will produce a Raeffeisen, a Luzzatti, or a Wollemberg, to secure the salvation of the agricultural population.

BENGALEE, 16th March 1901.

978. The same paper is glad to notice the ambitious scheme launched by Mr. Ram Krishna Shaynna, of Poona, for pro-A Dairy and Agricultural Supmoting a Dairy and Agricultural Supply Company, ply Company, Limited.

BENGALFE. 16th March 1901.

which is to embrace the whole of Northern India, with agencies at Bombay, Madras and Rangoon, and sees in such developments as this of India's vast resources, the salvation of her people. It takes this occasion to deplore the apathy, want of enterprise, and confidence in themselves, of the people of Bengal, who are exhorted to be up and doing and to emulate Poona, if not Japan and the Western countries.

INDIAN MIRROR, 17th March 1901.

979. The Indian Mirror remarking that the census shows that there has been a considerable diminution in the population Famine and the Census Returns. of the districts where famine has been prevalent during the last ten years, goes on to draw attention to the fact that, while India has "the Peoples' Famine Trust Fund," Ireland has a Famine Board, which is a purely Government affair.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 18th March 1901.

980. The Amrita Bazar Patrika in a short article, in which it quotes from the Saturday Review, attributes the frequent occur-The cause of famines in India. rence of famine in India to excessive taxation and the high assessment of land.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 18th March 1901. 981. The same paper publishes a letter addressed to the Dublin Duily

Express, suggesting that the memorial to Queen

Victoria should take the form of widespread irrigation works in India.

The Patrika remarks that the money required to save India from permanent famine is not one-fourth of the amount already spent on the South African war.

HINDOO PATRIOT, 20th March 1901. 982. The Hindoo Patriot shares the views recently expressed by Mr.

Romesh Chunder Dutt at a meeting of the National Liberal Federation at Rugby, that the sufferings of the people, caused by severe famine, are closely connected with the heavy land-tax.

(g) Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 15th March 1901. 983. A correspondent complains in the Amrita Bazar Patrika that the residents of Bagnan, in Howrah, suffer considerable inconvenience in the matter of their letters, owing to Bagnan being a branch instead of a sub-post office.

BENGALES, 15th March 1901. 984. The Bengalee congratulates Mr. J. Owens, the Presidency Post-master, on his appointment to officiate for Mr. Kisch as Postmaster-Geneal, Bengal.

HINDOO PATRIOT, 16th March 1901, 985. The decision of the Privy Council in a recent case, to the effect that there is no obligation on the Railway companies to carry safely, is greatly deplored by the Hindoo Patriot in the interest of railway passengers.

(h) - Genera?.

BENGALES, 15th March 1901. The Superintendent of Government Printing, Bengal.

The Superintendent of Government by the assistants employed in the office of the Superintendent of Government Printing, Bengal, complaining against certain measures adopted by the Superintendent, and hopes the Lieutenant-Governor will look into the complaints of the men and remedy their grievances.

BENGALEE, 17th March 1901. 987. The same journal again requests the authorities to see if there is any truth in the complaints against Mr. Chalmers.

BENGALER, 15th March 1901. 988. It holds that it is a matter for serious reflection that there should be a decrease in the population of many important cities, and hopes that the explanation vouchsafed by the authorities will prove a convincing one, and that it will be conceded that "we are not now as well off as we were ten years ago."

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 15th March 1901. The significance of Mr. Pennell's judgment.

Set itself as to why the Noakhali judgment has created such a sensation. It is because Mr. Pennell, who exposed the police-ridden and lawless condition of Chapra in the famous Chapra case, for which he was transferred to Noakhali, has shown up the same degree of lawlessness in Noakhali. And what is the inference? If Chapra and Noakhali are so, probably there is the same thing in many other parts of the Empire.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 16th March 1901. 990. The same paper is mystified at the Chief Justice sending for the The Executive and the Judiciary. records of the Noakhali case from Mr. Pennell, when it was not officially known to the High Court that that gentleman had left Noakhali in spite of the order refusing him leave.

Is it possible that the High Court received the information from the Bengal Government? Supposing this to be the case, the *Patrika* apprehends much danger to the country from this close intimacy between the Executive and the Judiciary.

991. The Indian Mirror holds that the telegram calling for an explanation why bail had been refused and urging a Mr. Pennell. reconsideration of the matter, sent by the Chief Justice to Mr. Pennell on the 17th ultimo, two days after the Noakhali judgment had been delivered, and before any application had been made on behalf of Mr. Reily, was wholly illegal; and unless an explanation be forthcoming, there should be a public meeting to condemn this new and out-

INDIAN MIRROR, 16th March 1901.

992. Power and Guardian says that to force Mr. Pennell to work in an unhealthy place like Noakhali is to send him Ibid. to an early grave, and the general opinion is that he is the most persecuted of men on account of his independence of character.

DIAN, 17th March 1901,

993. The Bengalee comments disapprovingly on the action of the High Court in Mr. Pennell's case.

BENGALEE, 17th March 1901.

Referring to the telegram sent to Mr. Pennell by the Registrar of the High Court on the 17th February, this paper speaks of it, as an instance of interference with the independence of the Judicial Bench, for which no justification can be found.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA. 18th March 1901.

With reference to the letter from the High Court to the Bengal Government, recommending the suspension of Mr. Pennell, the Amrita hazar Patrika states that though the letter is sent on behalf of the Chief Justice and all the Judges of the High Court, four of the Judges did not agree with the decision of the Chief Justice.

INDIAN NATION. 18th March 1901.

995. With reference to the telegram from the Chief Justice to Mr. Pennell, the Indian Nation remarks, "Even the Chief Justice Ibid. is not above the law, and we should very much like to know under what law he had the authority to cause the above telegram to be sent." The article goes on to say that Mr. Pennell was interfered with before his decision or any portion of it had been judicially brought to the notice of the High Court

AMRITA BASAR PATRIKA, 19th March 1901.

The Amrita Bazar Patrika accuses the Bengal Government and the Chief Justice of having combined to interfere Ibid. with the judicial independence of Mr. Pennell, and classes Mr. Pennell as one of the noblest of men for having preferred to suffer rather than surrender his independence.

It suggests that the telegram of the Chief Justice was sent at the request of someone in high authority, and asks why the Chief Justice should squander money in sending urgent telegrams regarding a matter in which Mr. Reily and not the public was concerned.

The Bengales asks several questions regarding the telegram sent by the Chief Justice to Mr. Pennell, and says the time 19th March 1901. has come when these questions should be solved

BENGALEE.

once for all in the interest of the public.

Ibid.

rageous departure from settled practice.

998. Five and a half columns of the Bengalee are given up to "interesting documents" connected with the Noakhali case.

BENGALES. 19th March 1901.

The Indian Empire says much indignation has been felt throughout 999. the country at the suspension of Mr. Pennell, and an Ibid. impression is gaining ground that great injustice has been done him.

INDIAN EPMIRE, 19th March 1901.

1000. The Amrita Bazar Patrika, again printing the letter of the High Court recommending Mr. Pennell's suspension, says Ibid. "We understand that eminent lawyers are of

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 20th March 1901,

opinion that the suspension of Mr. Pennell is illegal." The article goes on to remark that the Hon'ble Judges based their decision on the testimony of Messrs. Chapman and Sheepshanks, without giving Mr. Pennell an opportunity of defending himself.

The same issue of the paper publishes a letter from Mr. Pennell to the India Government, dated 18th March.

AMBITA BASAR PATRIKA, 21st March 1901.

The same journal says "The way Mr. Pennell has attacked 1001. Sir John Woodburn has given us a shock." It then Mr. Pennell. proceeds to praise Sir John Woodburn for his conduct at the time of the plague scare, but winds up by remarking that the only official His Honour has ever punished is Mr. Pennell, whom the Indians have very good reason to love and admire.

BEHAR HERALD, 16th March 1901.

1002. The Behar Herald complains that though money has been poured out in reckless profusion on temporary measures, such The plague. as disinfection and inoculation, no steps have been taken to improve the sanitary condition of the towns by structural alterations and the removal of houses unfit for habitation.

BEHAR HERALD, 16th March 1901.

Vaccination as a plague preventive.

1003. The same paper publishing the opinion of Dr. Hem Chundra Sen, M.D. that vaccination is useful as a preventive of plague, hopes that it may be so, as the people have taken kindly to vaccination though not to inoculation.

BEHAR HERALD. 16th March 1901.

1004. The same journal in discussing the subject of disinfection of plaguestricken houses, advocates 'desiccation' by removing How to fight plague in Bihar. the tiles of the houses. Referring to a common saying in Patna, that the plague always gets into the houses where the dawai has been sprinkled, the Herald considers it to be a fact that the sprinkling of disinfectants in small, dark houses, where the walls and floor cannot be properly dried, will render the surrounding air damp and humid, and give rise to fever and cold.

BENGALEE, 16th March 1901.

1005. The Bengalse draws attention to a letter from a correspondent at Tippera, though it does not vouch for the facts, that An objectionable circu'ar. Mr. Geidt, District Judge, has issued a circular to all subordinate Courts, ordering them to publish notifications of sales of immovable properties in the Tripura Hitashi Patrika, an obscure Comilla vernacular paper, which has no circulation in the interior.

POWER AND GUAR-DIAN, 17th March 1901.

1006. Power and Guardian complains of the Chittagong General Hospital being kept for Europeans only, and none but Chittagong Hospital. gazetted officers being allowed in the Oldham Institute. It cites an instance of a native gentleman, who had been allowed by one doctor to occupy a room in the hospital, being driven out by that doctor's successor.

POWER AND GUAR-DIAN, 17th March 1901.

Promotion in the office of Examiner of Accounts, Eastern Bengal State Railway.

1008.

1007. The same paper writes against the Accountant-General, Bengal, for promoting an Eurasian over the head of a Bengali senior. The Amrita Bazar Patrika continues a leading article on the subject

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 18th March 1901.

Want of sympathy shown towards Indians by Englishmen.

of the want of sympathy shown by Englishmen for Indians and their aims. "It is because Mr. Pennell has shown some of his sympathies to the poor Indians" says the Patrika "that he is now the idol of the nation and he is the subject of talk from Comorin to Quetta."

HIRDOO PATRIOT. 20th March 1901.

1009. The Hindoo l'atriot draws attention to the remarks made by the High Court Judges against the Police and The Bogra murder case. the Subordinate Magistracy in the decisions on the Bogra murder case, and a theft case of the Birbhum district in which a Deputy Magistrate sentenced a man to three months' rigorous imprisonment for stealing a pumpkin.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA. 21st March 1901.

The Amrita Bazar Patrika referring to the Financial Statement, 1010. suggests that, had the Famine Insurance Fund The Financial Statement. been profitably employed, as was the original intention, famine would have vanished from the land and the Government would not have been under the necessity of contracting famine debts.

AMBITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 21st March 1901.

1011. The same journal, in a long article headed "Executive and Judiciary shaking hands," commences by reminding Sir Mr. Knox-Wight's petition against Mr. Brett's promotion to Francis Maclean of the responsibilities of his office. the High Court. It then proceeds to complain of there being no representative of the Hindu community presiding over the Criminal Bench, as there was up to the time Sir Francis Maclean took charge of the Court. Mr. Ameer Ali is classed as being to the Hindus as much an alien as, if not more, than an European Judge. Then follows an extract from the Chittagong Jyoti referring to a case in which Mr. Justice Ameer Ali's decision was distasteful to the Hindu community. The article then proceeds to deal with the complaint of Mr. Knox-Wight against the promotion of Mr. Brett to the High Court. The concluding paragraph runs:—"Mr. Knox-Wight plainly says that he owes his supersession to Sir John Woodburn and Sir Francis Maclean. They are great friends, Sir John and Sir Francis, but the sooner they part company, the better for themselves and the country."

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III.—LEGISLATION.

1012. The Behar Herald considers Mr. Cotton has covered himself
with glory by his brave and strenuous fight for
the oppressed coolie

BEHAR HERALD, 16th March 1901.

The Mines Bill. the Mines Bill. the Mines Bill, but in respect of having qualified managers in each mine urges, on behalf of native mine-owners, that they cannot afford to have highly-paid managers with English certificates. When framing the rules, the interests of these owners should be duly kept in view. "They deserve every encouragement in their praiseworthy attempt to develop a new industry, which will ease the present pressure of population on agriculture, which is daily becoming almost the sole means of livelihood of our people, with all its uncertainties and disappoint-

PATRIKA, 16th March 1901.

1014. The Bengalee, in commenting unfavourably on the new measure, quoting from the opinion of a friend from Ranchi, likens it to a Slave Act, and says that instead of doing the coolies good, it will do them "more harm than before."

BENGALEE, 19th March 1901.

1015. Under the heading "Deplorable Blundering," the same paper regrets it cannot regard the decision of the Government in the matter of the Assam Labour Bill as either a just or a wise one. The life of a tea-garden cooly is described as one of eternal misery and want, and it is suggested that the official Members of the Council felt themselves practically muzzled by the Viceroy's opening

BENGALEE, 19th March 1901.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

1016. Commenting on the needlessness of such organizations as St. John's Ambulance Associations in this country, where St. John's Ambulance Associal large gatherings may meet without serious accidents, the Bengalee nevertheless wishes Major Yate's mission every success and would be glad to see an Ambulance corps in every native State to be used in times of peace.

Bengales, 15th March 1901.

The Cooper's Hill College controversy.

Hill have not improved their chances of reinstatement by their agitation, they have succeeded at any rate in convicting Lord Geroge Hamilton of

declaration.

BENGALEE, 15th March 1901.

gross misstatements of facts in his reply to the deputation which waited upon him.

1018. The Bengalee publishes a telegram sent by the Maharaja of Bikanir to all the principal subjects of his State now carrying on business in Calcutta, expressing regret that the Bikaniris have not yet come forward and subscribed liberally to the fund.

BENGALEE, 17th March 1901.

It is believed that the Bikaniris in Calcutta will hold a meeting to consider the Viceroy's scheme.

1019. The same paper publishes a Reuter's telegram from St. Petersburg describing how several escaped Boer prisoners were rescued from the water in Colombo harbour and taken off to St. Petersburg on the Russian

BENGAEBE, 17th March 1901.

1020. The Amrita Bazar Patrika advertises a paper of this name. The advertisement is badly worded and offers inducements to subscribers, such as remission of a certain

AMRITA BASAR PATRIKA, 18th March 1901.

numbers of subscriptions, with bonuses.

BENGALES, 19th March 1901, 1021. The Bengales, in what is apparently meant to be regarded as a telegram from St. Petersburg, gives further particulars of the escape of five Boer prisoners from the

Catalonia in Colombo harbour.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 19th March 1901. 1022. With reference to the Bengal Government's conditional offer to contribute an additional sum of Rs. 50,000 annually for scientific research in regard to Indigo in Bihar, the Bihar planters. the Amrita Bazar Patrika says it would have been

better for the Government to pay back the money at once to the District Boards, or to provide the people with medical aid and drinking-water first; and complains that it is unjust that the Bihar planters should benefit at the expense of the general tax-payers.

Office of the Inspr.-General of Police, L. P.,
Writers' Buildings,
The 27th March 1901.

F. C. DALY,
Asst. to the Inspr.-General of Police, L. P.